liable to pay the Property Tax from the date of possession thereof. In regard to the tax liability for the period between the Asian Games and the date of handing over of possession, a decision is yet to be taken.

Abolition of contract labour in FCI

855. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of contract labour employed in the storage depots and other departments of Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether their is any proposal under Government's consideration to abolish the contract labour system in Food Corporation of India; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The foodgrain handling operations in FCI depots vary from season to season and even day to day. Generally these are carried out through service contractors who employ their own labour as per the requirement and periodical work indent. Therefore the number of labourers keep on varying from time to time.

(b) and (c) The question of abolition of contract labour system in food storage depots, of the FCI is under consideration of the Union Ministry of Labour on the directives of the Supreme Court in a writ petition filed by the FCI Workers Union.

Taking over of possession of foodgrains from Punjab by FCI

856. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the normal period during which the FCI takes over the possession of foodgrains purchased on its behalf by the State organisations in Punjab markets;

(b) whether it is a fact that any delay in this process beyond three-four days cause many problems, disputes and wastages; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure quick transfer of stocks and speedy movement of foodgrains from Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The takeover of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India from the State agencies in Punjab is a continuous process and the quantities taken over depend upon the volume of stocks, available storage, movement capacity and other related factors. The State agencies are expected to procure grains that conform to specifications and maintain them in good condition. They are reimbursed all reasonable expenses on storage and maintenance for the period the grains procured are held by them. It is the endeavour of the Food Corporation of India to take over such stocks as expeditiously as possible. The movement of foodgrains from Punjab, which was 9.15 lakh tonnes in December, 1986, went up to over 12.00 lakh tonnes in March, 1987.

Drought relief to Kerala

857. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute drought situation in Kerala;

(b) whether the Kerala State Government has submitted any memorandum to the Central Government seeking for an immediate drought relief assistance of Rs. 138 crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction therto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala initially submitted a Memorandum in January 1987 seeking Central assistance of Rs. 119.50 crores for drought relief measures. Vide a Supplementary Memorandum submitted in March, 1987, the State Government raised their request to Rs. 147.00 crores. The amount of Central assistance sought for drought relief by State Government has finally been raised to Rs. 281.64 crores vide another Memorandum submitted in April, 1987. The sector-wise details of the assistance sought by the State Government are given below:—

(*Rs. in crores*)

Sl. No.	Sector	Amount sought in		
		First Memorandum	Second Memorandum	Third Memorandum
1	Agriculture	22.34	22.34	94.25
2	Water Supply	42.13	42.13	49.74
3	Fisheries	..	..	0.52
4	Animal Husbandry	2.53	2.53	4.83
5	Supplementary Nutrition	1.50	1.50	2.50
6	Health & Medical care	1.00	1.00	2.00
7	Employment Generation	50.00	77.50	127.80
	TOTAL :	119.50	147.00	281.64

A Central Team has visited Kerala between 12th and 15th April, 1987 to make an on the spot assessment of the drought situation. The Central Team has not yet submitted its report.

Decline in the profits of SAIL

858. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited earned a profit worth Rs. 159 crores during the year 1985-86 and only Rs. 50 crore during the year 1986-87;

(b) whether Government have since ascertained the causes of decline in profit during the year 1986-87; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the steps contemplated by Government to review the working of the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) SAIL earned a profit of Rs. 159 crores during 1985-86. The final result for the financial year 1986-87 will be known only after the accounts are finalised and audited.

Enhancement of quota of rice to Karnataka

859. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka and recently urged the Central Government to enhance the quantum of existing quota of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) by when a final decision to enhance the quota of rice is to be taken?